

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2630 - SB 2587

January 29, 2010

SUMMARY OF BILL: Changes the language “permanency plan of care” to “permanency plan” wherever it appears. Changes the language “board” or “advisory review boards on foster care” to “foster care review board” wherever it appears.

Requires individual progress reports on foster care to be given to a parent’s attorney, the guardian ad-litem, the child’s attorney, and the child. Requires such individuals to be given notice and the right to participate in the review of foster care plans.

Deletes the provision in current law that the Department of Children’s Services (DCS) provide training for juvenile court judges, court staff, and foster care review boards.

Authorizes DCS and the Administrative Office of the Court (AOC) to assist judges who appoint foster care review boards. Revises membership of these boards to include a nurse, a lawyer, a member of a human resources agency, a member of a local education agency, a staff member of a local mental agency, a youth formerly in foster care, a mother or father with a minor child, and a person under the age of 30. Requires a quorum of members in order for a review to be conducted. Changes from 30 to 10 calendar days the amount of time that a foster care review board has to submit a report to the judge.

Requires direct referral cases that show issues that directly compromise the health, safety, or welfare of a child be heard within 72 hours by a judge or magistrate.

Requires a judge not appointing a foster care board to conduct a review of the child’s foster care plan within 90 days of the child’s placement. Authorizes a judge to hear foster care reviews upon a motion by either party in lieu of a foster care board.

Adds a child on documented runaway status to the list of exceptions for the child’s mandatory attendance at a permanency hearing.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

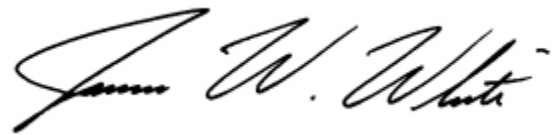
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Assumptions:

- Any increase in state or local expenditures to make these various changes is estimated to be not significant.
- According to the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), any impact on court caseloads will be absorbed within existing resources.
- Currently, AOC provides training for juvenile court judges, court staff, and foster care review boards.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

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